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quoted from South America and the Antilles, the catastrophe of Tamboro on the Island of Sumbava (1815), of Coseguina in Central America, of Krakatau near Java, recall similar causes. It is perhaps a question whether the, not very rare, cases when eruptions of appalling violence came without premonitory symptoms should not be attributed to explosion from within, and the removal of their summits to that force rather than to a retreat towards the interior.

A. F. B.

**Cities and Sights of Spain. A Handbook for Tourists. By Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond (Mrs. Main).** xv and 214 pp., many illustrations from photographs by the author, index, and map. George Bell & Sons, London, 1904.

In three visits to Spain the author travelled about 6,000 miles. Her book is meant to supplement the guide-books, and especially to make it easier for tourists, while in Spain, to get along without most of the books that are still thought to be essential to travelling in that country with most enjoyment and profit. She thinks that no other part of Europe "offers so varied and attractive a field to nearly every type of traveller." The Spanish Government and people are now exerting themselves in many ways to make travel pleasurable, and to turn a larger part of the tide of tourists in their direction, with the result that the number of travellers is increasing every year. This is a thoroughly helpful and an interesting little book. A black-and-white map, gives the plan of a tour that includes practically all the points of interest in the country. Travelling in Spain seems to be cheaper than in most other European countries. The author found on her second tour that for five weeks and three days in Spain the cost was \$150, including first-class fare on the railroads and the best hotels.

**The Masai, their Language, and Folklore. By A. C. Hollis. With Introduction by Sir Charles Eliot.** xxviii and 356 pp., 27 Plates of Illustrations, Index, and Map. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1905. (Price, 14s.)

Mr. Hollis is Chief Secretary to the Administrator of the British East African Protectorate, and is well known for earlier contributions to African anthropology. For ten years he had large opportunity to study the Masai, and his linguistic talent and anthropological training have enabled him to get at the heart of their mental and physical life. The result is a work of great thoroughness and excellence. He has produced the best book in English on this important African family.

The Masai live in the inland districts of British and German East Africa, between the Equator and 6° S. Lat. Most of them have been pastoral nomads, but there is also a small agricultural element. Until about twenty-five years ago they were the most formidable tribe in East Africa. They kept the Arab slave traders at bay, levied heavy tribute upon all who passed through their country, delayed for years the exploration of tropical East Africa, and treated all other races with the greatest arrogance. But the past quarter of the century has been disastrous for the race. Most of their cattle were swept away by rinderpest, great numbers of the tribe fell victims to smallpox, neighbouring tribes rose against them in their weakness, and their numbers were further reduced by famine. It is believed that only 12,000 to 15,000 are now living. To save them from extinction Mr. Hollis says that :

Every support should be given to the Church Missionary Society and to the other missions, for it is only by the gradual and peaceful civilization of the tribe that they can be saved from extinction.

What Mr. Hollis has done in this book is to place within reach of all a knowledge of the language and customs of the Masai. Comparatively little has been known of this language, and Hollis's exposition of it will be of interest to philologists and

of practical importance to the whites, who, in increasing numbers, are coming into contact with the natives. As Sir Charles Eliot says, if one wishes to be on friendly terms with other races, and to avoid misunderstandings, the first essential is to speak their language. The Masai are delighted to converse with Europeans, and if they had been capable of giving or receiving explanations when trouble was brewing much disastrous misunderstanding would have been avoided.

Mr. Hollis gives 101 pp. to the grammar, including rules for pronunciation, and a large vocabulary. He has made the grammatical system of the Masai language coherent and clear. The language has many peculiarities. It shows a marked inclination for long formations, and until the articles, relatives, verbal prefixes, and affixes have been separated, it is impossible to discover roots, or even the simple forms of nouns and verbs. Much still remains to be done, but the general structure of the language appears at last to be established beyond doubt.

Nouns in Masai are not susceptible of any inflections to mark the cases; but the article has special forms to denote the nominative, vocative, and genitive. Many substantives are derived from verbal roots. Perhaps the most complicated part of the language is the formation of the plural of nouns; and Mr. Hollis gives 17 pp. to the discussion of this topic. There are no degrees of comparison in the forms of adjectives, and the author shows the various ways in which the comparative and superlative are expressed. Forty-nine pp. are given to the verb. There are few conjunctions, no real prepositions, but a large number of interjections.

Two-thirds of the book are devoted to the stories, proverbs, riddles, and songs, and to an account of the customs and beliefs of this interesting people. A delightful peculiarity of this long narration is that the whole is given in the words of the Masai themselves, which were put on paper in their language as the author received his information. The English translation is printed, line by line, under the Masai words, or the two are presented in parallel columns.

The stories, songs, and proverbs show considerable imagination, and naturally bring into clear light the ideas and motives at the basis of the native character and life. Their proverbs often give the essence of our own. "Do not jump about, for there is no use in it," is another way of saying "The more haste, the less speed." "We begin by being foolish, and we become wise by experience" is, of course, only another form of "Experience is the best teacher." The Masai say "Flies have ears," and we say the same thing of "Little pitchers." "Mountains do not meet" is often said when persons part company, and is equivalent to the Turkish proverb, "Mountain does not meet mountain, but man meets man."

The long section on Masai customs covers many phases of their migrations, work, attire, ceremonials, weapons, military code, social ideas and habits, religious beliefs—which are vague and unformulated—crimes, etc. Here is a simple account of Masai fire-making:

When the Masai move and go far, the men take with them, or cut on the spot where they intend to stay, a hard pointed stick and a flat piece of wood. They then search for some donkey's dung or dry grass, and produce fire in the centre of the new kraal by drilling the stick into a hole in the wood. When the fire has reached the grass they set light to some leaves of *Cordia ovalis* and throw wood on to the fire. The women obtain their fire from the one which the men have made. When the journey is a short one the women carry fire with them.

Sir Charles Eliot, formerly Administrator of the British East Africa Protectorate, supplies an introduction in which he discusses the still vexed question of the origin of the Masai and compares them, as to their language and customs, with other East African and Nilotic tribes. The book is one of the most striking of recent illustrations of the great progress we are making in knowledge of Africa and of its peoples.